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Some Information

In Regard to the


Illinois State Capitol

Compiled by
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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



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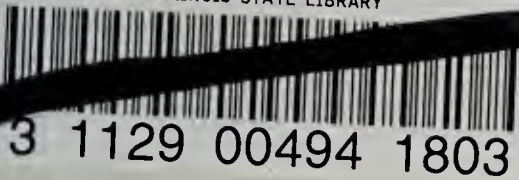
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INTRODUCTORY.

(Louis L. Emmerson, Secretary of State, is indebted to Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Secretary Illinois Centennial Commission, for the descriptive matter contained in this booklet.)



THE ILLINOIS STATE CAPITOL BUILDING.

Shortly after the close of the War of the Rebellion the capitol building or State House of Illinois was found to be inadequate for the needs of the rapidly growing state and on February 25, 1867 the Twenty-fifth General Assembly passed an act authorizing the erection of a new State House.

This act authorized the Governor to convey to the County of Sangamon and the City of Springfield the *old* capitol building and grounds. This building is now the Sangamon County Court House and stands in the middle of the public square of the city of Springfield. The consideration received by the State for the old capitol was two hundred thousand (\$200,000) dollars and the site for the erection of the new Capitol. The act limited the cost to three million (\$3,000,000) dollars. On March 11, 1868 ground was broken for the new building. The corner stone was laid October 5, 1868, on which occasion Judge John D. Caton delivered the principal address.

The first board of State House Commissioners was appointed by Gov. Richard J. Oglesby, and consisted of seven members. They were John W. Smith, John J. S. Wilson, Philip Wadsworth, James C. Robinson, William T. Vandever, William L. Hambleton, and James H. Beveridge. Mr. John J. S. Wilson did not long remain on the Board and Jacob Bunn was appointed in his place. On the organization of the Board Mr. Bunn was elected its Chairman. The last Board of State House

Commissioners appointed in 1885 by Gov. Richard J. Oglesby, who had been for the third time elected governor of Illinois, consisted of George Kirk, William Jayne and John McCreery, and these gentlemen directed the expenditure of the last appropriation and the completion of the building.

A prize of three thousand (\$3,000) dollars was offered by the commission in 1867 for the best design for the capitol building. Twenty-one designs were received. The design submitted by John C. Cochrane of Chicago was chosen on July 2, 1867 and Mr. Cochrane was appointed as architect and superintendent for the construction of the building. For this work his compensation was fixed at two and a half per cent of the cost of the building.

W. D. Clark, Alfred H. Piquenard, M. E. Bell and W. W. Boyington were also employed in the architectural work of the erection of the capitol building at different times during the period of its construction.

In September 1869 the foundation was completed.

In 1876 the building was first occupied, though in an unfinished condition. John L. Beveridge was governor at that time.

In 1885 the final appropriation was made and the building was completed in 1888, twenty-one years after its erection was authorized by the General Assembly.

The entire cost of the building has been nearly four and a half million (\$4,500,000) dollars. The limit of the cost had been fixed by the Constitution of 1870 at three and a half million (\$3,500,000) dollars. Appropriations by the General Assembly exceeding this amount required a vote of approval by the people of the State. In November 1877 the people by

their vote refused to sanction an appropriation for the completion of the capitol. At the election of 1882 the people again refused their approval of an appropriation for this purpose. In 1884 the people of the State by their vote approved an appropriation to complete the building, and the work was carried to completion.

The Illinois State Capitol Building is in the form of a Latin cross. It is situated in a plot of ground eight and one-half acres in extent. The building faces east, and looks down Capitol Avenue.

The present Capitol grounds are bounded on the east by Second Street, on the north by Mouroe Street, on the west by Spring Street, and on the south by Charles Street. When the Centennial Memorial Building is erected on ground directly south of the Capitol, and now owned by the State, Charles Street will probably be made a part of the Capitol grounds and no longer used as a public street.

The State House is of the composite order of architecture. The circular foundation upon which the great dome of the Capitol rests is ninety-two and a half feet in diameter, and is twenty-five and a half feet below the grade line, based upon the solid rock. The walls supporting the dome are seventeen feet in thickness from the foundation to the floor of the first story. The foundation walls are built of granular magnesian limestone which was obtained from the Sonora quarries of Hancock County, Illinois. The foundation for the outer walls is from eleven to sixteen feet thick below the grade line, and nine feet thick up to the first floor. The outer walls of the superstructure are constructed of Niagara limestone the lower story from the Joliet quarries, and the upper stories from the quarries at Lemont.

The extreme length of the building from north to south is three hundred and seventy-nine (379) feet, and from east to west two hundred and sixty-eight (268) feet. The height from the ground line to the top of the dome is three hundred and sixty-one (361) feet, and to tip of flag staff four hundred and five (405) feet.

As the Capitol is approached from the east, at the entrance of the grounds is situated the statue of Abraham Lincoln. This represents Mr. Lincoln at the time of leaving Springfield to assume his duties in Washington, February 11, 1861. It is of bronze, is ten feet and six inches in height. It is on a granite base with a large granite slab as a background. On the reverse side of this slab is carved Lincoln's Farewell Address to his neighbors. The sculptor is Andrew O'Connor. The statue, with its base cost when completed, fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollars. It will be dedicated October 5, 1918 as a part of the State's Centennial observance.

To the north of the Lincoln statue, or at the left of Mr. Lincoln is placed the bronze statue of Stephen A. Douglas. The sculptor of this statue is Gilbert P. Riswold of Chicago. Its entire cost was ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars. It will also be dedicated October 5, 1918.

At the extreme southeast corner of the present capitol grounds is situated a statue of Pierre Menard first Lieutenant-governor of Illinois. Pierre Menard was an Indian trader and enjoyed the confidence of his Red Brothers. The statue represents Menard in the act of trading with Indians. This bronze statue is the gift to Illinois of Mr. Charles P. Choteau of St. Louis, whose father was a friend and business associate of Menard. The statue was dedicated, January 10, 1888.

Entering the Capitol building from the east one comes under the magnificent

portico. The base of the portico is of limestone which forms a support for a row of ten huge polished granite pillars, with Corinthian capitals of stone. These in turn support the Corinthian gable of the building which is of solid stone. The entire interior decoration of the building is of the French Renaissance style. On entering the east corridor one immediately is attracted by the mural decorations, which were at the time when they were placed, considered fine specimens of such work. A wainscot of marble about six feet in height runs all around the lower corridors. These mural paintings depict mythological personage; or noted scenes or persons of Illinois history. They were the work of the Phillipson Decorating Company of Chicago.

EAST CORRIDOR.

First Floor.

The ceiling is divided into four panels. The figure in the one immediately east of the center is "Charity". She holds the horn of plenty and is distributing her wealth with impartial hand. On the other side of the center panels are "Hope" and "Faith", both in conventional design. Hope leaning on an anchor and gazing far out upon the sea, Charity holding on her right arm the cross. The center panel is decorated with renaissance ornaments, the chief features of which are four cupids, one in each corner, supporting the United States coat of arms.

FIRST FLOOR.

Center.

At the intersection of the corridor stands a bronze female figure of heroic

size, representing "Illinois welcoming the World." This was designed for and exhibited at the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893. This piece of statuary was placed on exhibition by the Woman's Exposition Committee during the Exposition, in the Illinois Building, and was transferred to the State House after the close of the Fair. The sculptor was Miss Julia M. Bracken of Jo Daviess County, Illinois.

FIRST FLOOR.

North Corridor.

MURAL PAINTINGS.

Right hand entering from the north.

I. Starved Rock on the Illinois River near Ottawa.

II. Fort Chartres on Mississippi River near Prairie du Rocher, erected 1720.

III. General Grant taking the command at Cairo.

FIRST FLOOR.

South Corridor.

MURAL PAINTINGS.

RIGHT HAND GOING SOUTH.

I. Fort Dearborn, mouth of Chicago River.

II. Governor Coles freeing his slaves on the Ohio River.

LEFT HAND SIDE.

III. Lincoln, Offut and Green on Flat Boat at New Salem.

IV. New Salem.

V. Marquette and Joliet at Indian village on DesPlaines River near Joliet, 1673.

WEST CORRIDOR.

First Floor.

The main feature of this part of the lower structure is the grand stairway,

made of solid marble with a framework of iron. The ceiling of the west wing is a succession of arches and panels and is decorated with fresco paintings, with an oriental tinge in shades of red and gold. Plastic relief in metal effects heightens the beauty of the side wall decorations.

Second Floor, or Executive Floor.

Large painting of George Rogers Clark making a treaty with the Indians, 1778.

This floor is reached by means of two large passenger elevators, and the feature which at once strikes the eye in landing is the huge painting at the head of the grand marble stairway. It is 20x40 feet in size and the figures in the foreground are ten feet in height. Although it has been severely criticized by many, it is nevertheless a magnificent piece of work. It represents George Rogers Clark before Fort Kaskaskia, engaged in making a treaty with the Indians in July, 1778. The work on this painting was done in part by a painter named G. A. Fuchs, under the direction of Mr. William Phillipson. It can be best seen from the third floor.

East Corridor.

The principal features of the side walls of the second or executive floor are four panel pictures some twelve feet by five feet in size, executed by Matt Morgan of Cincinnati. They represent "Art", "Literature", "Peace" and "War". They are painted on copper colored bronze background, and are all of female figures, with the conventional insignia of their respective allegorical characters.

The floor of this east wing is of marble flagging and a three-foot marble wains-

col extends around the side walls, making a base for marble shafts supporting the ceiling. Of the north and south wings of this floor but little can be said, except that they are decorated in French Renaissance fresco designs.

SOUTH CORRIDOR.

Second Floor.

Old Supreme Court Room. Now Public Utilities quarters. Mural decorations on the ceiling, the work of Moretti, of the firm of Miragoli & Moretti, St. Louis, Mo. The principal figure represents the Goddess of Justice, heroic size, seated on a forum, a table of the law on the left hand, sword in the right. One foot, protruding from the drapery, is bare, and trampling upon gold piece, from a cornucopia indicates that Justice is not bought; a quiver of arrows at her feet. Two little cherubs—one holding a book of the law, the other the National Flag—balance the representation of the Goddess. In the dim perspective is the reproduction of the Capitol.

WEST CORRIDOR.

Second Floor.

Plaster statues in niches in rotunda.
Abraham Lincoln.
Stephen A. Douglas.

John Wood. This statue was the gift of the people of the city of Quincy, Illinois, Governor Wood having been a resident of that city. The statue is the work of Leonard Volk.

THE ROTUNDA.

The rotunda from the second floor is formed of a succession of marble, granite and bronze. Both the second and third

floors are encircled with balustrades of electric plate iron, with heavy brass rails. This treatment of stone, marble and granite is carried to a height of eighty feet, until it reaches a huge frieze of about forty feet in height, completely encircling the dome.

THIRD FLOOR.

The frieze, in plastic relief in imitation of bronze, represents the progress of Civilization, or the migrations of the pioneer. The sculptor was F. Nicolai. Beginning at the west side, the scenes in relief represent:

1. The first panel represents a trader's habitation and the trader himself bargaining for some hides with the savages. The brave housewife is near the door and completes the picture of the earliest pioneer life.

2. The cabin is again represented with the wife and children near it, while the husband is starting forth to his daily toil, driving a team of yoked oxen, while a band of Indians lurk behind a group of trees and with drawn bows threaten his life.

3. The third panel of the frieze shows a stockade fort with its outside sentinels, while a group of settlers are riding in from their homes, seeking protection from the depredations of the Indians.

4. This panel represents a group of four settlers in the midst of an Indian camp, ostensibly there for the purpose of making a treaty with the savage warriors.

5. This panel represents real Indian border warfare. The pioneers on foot and in the saddle are charging at full speed upon a band of ambushed red men, who are fighting for life and receiving swarms of recruits on horses. There is much vigor in the picture, and the settlers are

represented as getting the better of their opponents.

6. This panel shows the surrender of Black Hawk at Prairie du Chien and shows the Indians submitting a truce. Their chief is in the center speaking to the commanding officer, while followers of each await the outcome of the meeting.

7. The interior of a primitive meeting house or church. The minister is exhorting and the congregation in shaker bonnets and quaint old clothes is listening in rapt attention. (Minister supposed to be Peter Cartwright.)

8. Virginia House of Burgesses, with Patrick Henry as the central figure, making his memorable address, and Washington and Richard Henry Lee among his attentive auditors.

9. Lincoln and Douglas debate. This relief probably represents the Lincoln-Douglas debate at Galesburg October 7, 1858, the fifth in the series of the immortal seven joint debates between Mr. Lincoln and Senator Douglas.

There are twenty figures. The key or explanation of the relief has been lost, but it is believed that the following incomplete list of men is approximately correct. Captain A. W. Jerome, who was long employed in the Capitol building, made a study of this scene, and from the best evidence which he could secure made up the list as here given:

Left to right—No. 1. Leonard Swett;
 No. 2. Ozias Hatch; No. 3. _____;
 No. 4. Lyman Trumbull; No. 5. _____;
 _____; No. 6. William Butler; No. 7,
 _____; No. 8. _____; No.
 9. John M. Palmer; No. 10. Jesse K.
 Dubois; No. 11. Stephen T. Logan; No.
 12. Abraham Lincoln; No. 13. Stephen A.
 Douglas; No. 14. _____; No. 15.

_____ ; No. 16, _____ ; No. 17, David Davis; No. 18, _____ ; No. 19, Anthony Thornton; No. 20, negro slave.

This heavy frieze is supported by broad bands of relief ornaments in the French renaissance style, slightly tinged with the Grecian in solid bronzes and antique colorings. It is surmounted by a succession of highly decorated mouldings carried to the height of some twenty feet in steel colored effects, which furnishes a foundation for a colonnade and also for a succession of twenty-four columns supporting.

THE UPPER DOME.

The columns are sixty feet high and four feet in diameter, in imitation of Sienna marble, with vases and capitals in imitation of antique bronze. The upper dome is built inside of galvanized iron, decorated and paneled with relief ornaments, all of which are treated in atmospheric colors to give distance to a structure already reaching to the height of over two hundred feet. Blue and gold are the predominating colors. The immediate center and extreme point of the dome is about fourteen feet in diameter and is finished with stained glass, on which the principal design of ornamentation is the coat of arms of the State of Illinois. The dome decorations are arranged in a manner to show both its gigantic proportions and its enormous height.

The contractor for the decorations of the dome and the lower corridor was the Phillipson Decorative Company of Chicago, and the work was done under the personal supervision of Mr. William Phillipson. Mitchell & Holbach of Chicago were the contractors for the work on the executive floor.

BRONZE STATUES ON THE CORBELS.

Or Pedestals in the Dome, Below the Frieze Just Described.

There was much discussion at the time of the selection of the individuals to be so honored. The State House Commission finally selected the following eight men distinguished in the annals of Illinois:

1. Ninian Edwards, Territorial Governor of Illinois.

2. Shadrach Bond, first Governor of the State of Illinois.

3. Edward Coles, second Governor of the State of Illinois.

4. Sidney Breese, Justice of the State Supreme Court and United States Senator.

5. Lyman Trumbull, United States Senator.

6. Gen. U. S. Grant, the greatest of the State's soldiers.

7. Gen. John A. Logan, distinguished volunteer soldier and United States Senator.

8. William R. Morrison, soldier and congressman.

The first statue placed was that of Colonel Morrison, on September 7, 1887. The others were placed during the following three months. These eight statues cost ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars. The artists who designed the figures were: Peter E. Poli, Edward Guitink and William Mali of Chicago. The statues were cast in New York from designs furnished by these artists.

Recently, (1918) between these statues, mural decorations have been painted by G. H. Schanbacher of Springfield, Illinois. These paintings represent the State Seal of Illinois with the blue and white Cen-

ennial banner on the shield. This banner was designed by Wallace Rice of Chicago. It is a flag with two white stripes and a centre stripe of blue. On each of the white stripes are ten blue stars, representing the ten northern and the ten southern states. On the blue stripe is a large white star representing Illinois the twenty-first state, the central or pivotal state, Illinois being the twenty-first state in the order of its admission to the Union.

THIRD FLOOR.

Mural paintings have recently been placed on the walls of this floor. They are:

"Industry." South alcove over entrance House of Representatives.

"Commerce." North alcove over entrance Senate Chamber.

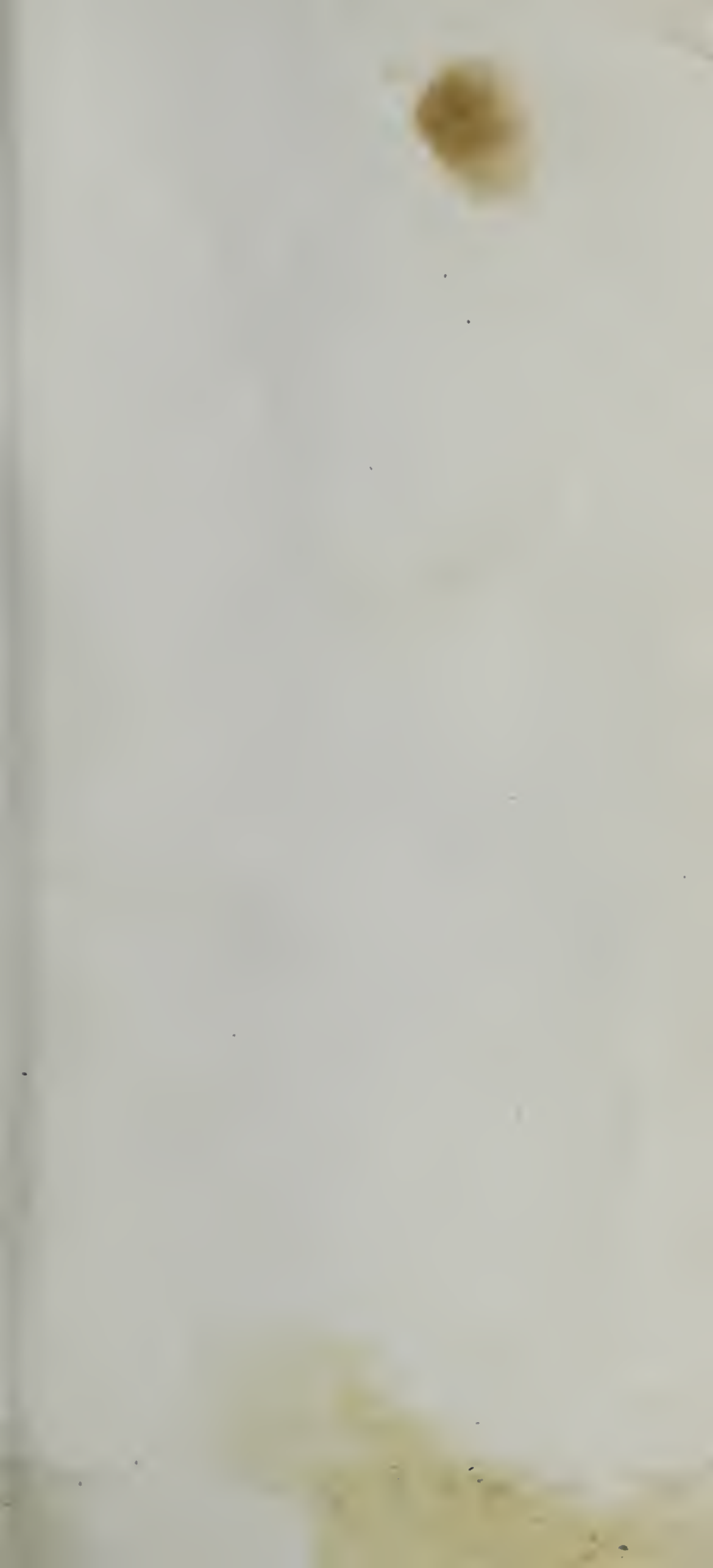
"Agriculture." East wall.

These paintings are the work of Robert W. Grafton of Chicago.

Picture — Grand Stairway — GEORGE ROGERS CLARK. TREATY WITH THE INDIANS. Described on page 9.

The third floor is the Legislative floor, and contains the House of Representatives and the Senate Chamber with their necessary offices. The House of Representatives is on the south side, the Senate Chamber on the north. Oil portraits of Lincoln and Douglas hang on the walls of the House of Representatives. They are the work of A. E. Darling, a noted portrait painter. They cost one thousand (\$1,000) each.

The west wing is occupied by the State Library, a magnificent room of splendid proportions. Its bookshelves with fronts of real bronze are ornamented with the portraits of American authors in relief. On the north wall of the main library room is a relief plaque in bronze repre-



senting an Illinois ranger or soldier of the Territorial period, 1809-1818. This tablet was erected by the State of Illinois to the memory of the Illinois Rangers and soldiers of the War of 1812. The sculptor is Miss Nelly Walker of Chicago. The Legislature appropriated twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200) for this tablet. It was dedicated January 12, 1915. The Illinois Daughters of 1812 had charge of the dedicatory exercises.

Full length portraits of General Washington and of the Marquis de Lafayette painted by J. W. Berry hang on the walls of the Library.

In the east wing is the Illinois State Historical Library, which contains the State's collection of material relating to State history and to Abraham Lincoln and other great men of Illinois. The main Library room contains a most interesting collection of Lincoln portraits, books and pamphlets.

During the past year the unfinished space in the fourth, fifth and sixth floors of the building has been finished and converted into excellent office rooms.

When the Capitol building was erected it was considered so large as to be entirely out of proportion to the needs of the State. At the close of the first half century of its existence, and after forty-two years of actual use, it is so overcrowded that the Supreme Court building recently constructed and the contemplated Centennial Memorial building are actually needed to carry on conveniently and efficiently the work of the various activities of the executive departments of the State of Illinois.

During the year 1918 the entire Capitol building has been cleaned and redecorated, under the supervision of Louis L. Emmerson, Secretary of State, and the building now presents a splendid appearance.